

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Amend Figs. 15 and 17 as indicated in the enclosed Replacement Sheets for Figs. 15-17. In Fig. 15, "10" has been changes to --10'-- and in Fig. 17, "84" has been changed to --84'-- and --60"-- has been added to Fig. 17.

#### REMARKS

In order to place their application in condition for allowance Applicants' have amended their specification and drawings to correct typographical errors and omissions and have replaced all previously presented claims with a new set of more carefully drafted claims. Applicants submit that the replacement claims overcome all prior bases for claims rejection and more clearly define structural elements of their invention set forth in previously considered dependent claims. Accordingly, Applicants' respectfully request the Examiner's favorable consideration of the replacement claims and the passage of their application to issue.

Claim 21 is generic to all dependent claims 22-33 and all three embodiments of Applicants' invention. Moreover, claim 21 includes structural elements set forth in previously presented dependent claims that Applicants submit are not taught or suggested in any of the prior art references. To aide the Examiner in his reconsideration of the claimed combination and his review of Applicants' specification describing in detail the structure and operation of each embodiment of their invention, Each claim in the replacement set includes the specification and drawing number references to each specific element of the claimed combination in each of the three embodiments.

Basically, claim 21 defines a volume adjustable pipette (10;10';10") including a turnable volume adjusting member (33;33';33') that by turning controls both coarse and fine volume adjustment of the pipette. Such volume adjustment of the

pipette is only in response to the turning of the volume adjusting member and is through coarse volume setting means (34;34';34") and fine volume setting means (35;35';35"). In order to more clearly define elements and operations of the structure set forth in the previously presented claims, claim 21 defines one of the coarse and fine volume setting means as "a one of the volume setting means" and the other of the coarse and fine volume setting means as "the other of the volume setting means". The one of the volume setting means is defined as being characterized by a force threshold (58;87;96) for its axial movement of the volume setting member (32;32';32") that is exceeded by a predetermined movement of the other volume setting means in response to the turning of the volume adjusting member (see previously presented claims 1, 2, 3, 11 and 15). Further, claim 21 defines the volume adjustable pipette as including means (60,61;60',61';60",61") for overcoming the force threshold (58;87;96) in response to a turning of the volume adjusting member (see previously presented claims 8, 12, 16 and 20).

Applicants have carefully reviewed each of the previously cited references and can not find any teaching or suggestions in any of these references of a volume adjustable pipette including a coarse and a fine volume setting means, one of which is characterized by a force threshold for axial movement of a volume setting member that is exceed by a predetermined movement of the other of such volume setting means in response to a turning of a volume adjusting member. Moreover, Applicants review of the cited references has failed to reveal any

teachings or suggestions of means for overcoming such a force threshold in response to a turning of a volume adjusting member.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that generic claim 21 defines a structural combination that is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by any of the cited references or any combination thereof. Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 21 and all claims dependent therefrom define patentably over all art of record and should be allowed.

More specifically, dependent claims 24 and 25 are directed to the embodiment of Applicants' volume adjustable pipette 10 illustrated in Figs. 1-8 and described fully at specification pages 9-24, while dependent claims 26-30 are directed to the embodiment of Applicants' volume adjustable pipette 10' illustrated in Figs. 9-14 and described fully at specification pages 30-37 and while dependent claims 31-33 are directed to the embodiment of Applicants' volume adjustable pipette 10" illustrated in Figs. 15-17 and described fully at specification pages 37-41 ( as special version of the pipette 10' being illustrated and described with reference to Fig. 14). Those Figs. and specification pages fully describe the claimed structure and operation of the volume adjustable pipettes 10, 10' and 10" and fully support each of the dependent claims set for in the replacement set of claims.

Accordingly, Applicants again submit that each of the claims in their replacement set of claims is fully supported by their patent application and define structure that is not anticipated or rendered obvious by any of the cited references.

Applicants therefore respectfully request allowance of each of their claims and earnestly solicit a passage to issue of their patent application.

Respectively submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert R. Meads". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

ROBERT R. MEADS  
Registration No. 22,796  
(510) 564-1707  
(310) 373-7621